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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/586,943	06/02/2000	Perry R. DeYoung	OLI02 P-350	6561
277	7590	12/30/2003	EXAMINER	
PRICE HENEVELD COOPER DEWITT & LITTON 695 KENMOOR, S.E. P O BOX 2567 GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49501			DEXTER, CLARK F	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			3724	

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2003
21

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/586,943	Applicant(s) DeYoung
Examiner Clark F. Dexter	Art Unit 3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sep 29, 2003

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

4) Claim(s) 1-62 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims 1-62 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 3724

DETAILED ACTION

1. The response filed September 29, 2003 and the amendment filed June 26, 2003 have been entered. Upon consideration of applicant's remarks, particularly regarding the position implied by applicant that the dependent claims may be patentable over their respective independent claims, and considering that, at this point, the Examiner's position is that the independent claims are not allowable over the prior art, a restriction requirement is necessary. It is respectfully submitted that there is a very serious burden to examine all of the claims together. However, in an effort to reduce applicant's burden, the number of groups as compared to the previous restriction requirement has been significantly reduced to two groups as described below.

Election/Restriction

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 2, 9, 15, 16, 25, 26, 32, 34-38, 40, 45, 47, 48, 55, 56, 58 and 60, drawn to a food press with a specific press structure, classified in class 100.
- II. Claims 7, 8, 10-13, 23, 24 and 27-30, drawn to a food press with a knife assembly, classified in class 83, subclass 618.

3. Independent claims 1, 18, 39, 50, 61 and 62 along with dependent claims 3-6, 14, 17, 19-22, 31, 33, 41-44, 46, 49, 51-54, 57 and 59 are linking claims and are not considered to be part of either of the groups. Thus, these claims will be examined with the elected group. Further, if any

Art Unit: 3724

of these claims are determined to be allowable, rejoinder of the claims dependent therefrom will be considered.

4. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Subcombinations Useable Together

5. Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of Group I has separate utility such as without the knife assembly of Group II. Conversely, the invention of Group II has separate utility such as without the specific details of the press structure of Group I; for example, without the delay device, the specific lid configuration and the specific interrelationships between the press components. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Art Unit: 3724

Remarks

8. Applicant is invited to contact the Examiner at the telephone number listed below to further discuss the restriction requirement.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clark Dexter whose telephone number is (703) 308-1404. The examiner's typical work schedule is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and he can be reached during normal business hours on these days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Allan Shoap, can be reached at (703)308-1082.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148. The fax numbers Technology Center 3700 are: after-final responses - (703)872-9303; other formal/official papers - (703)872-9302. The fax number for informal/draft papers - (703)305-9835.



Clark F. Dexter
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3724

cfd
December 29, 2003